17th April, 1998 in the matter of P. V Narasimha Rao Vs. State reported in (1998) 4SCC 626. The Hon'ble Court has held that "a MemberofParliament would fall within the ambit of sub-clause (viii) of Section 2 (c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988... Thus a Member of Parliament is a Public Servant for the purpose of the 1988. Act".

(c) Does not arise.

Kerala High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram

1694. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW,JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the setting up of High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram stands at present;

(b) whether Government would consider to set up a Bench of High Court of Kerala in Thiruvanthapuram; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Centra! Government to take any action in the matter.

Restriction on misuse of PIL

1695. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW,JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) which have been filed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts till now and their present stages;

(b) whether it is a fact that PIL as an instrument of speedy justice is being misused and Government are concerned over the impact of PIL on various policies and programmes; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop/restrict the misuse of PIL?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND